

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A magnetic film comprising:  
2 a magnetic alloy T-M-X wherein T is selected from the group consisting of at  
3 least about 90% Fe, Co, and Ni, M is selected from the group consisting of B, Al, Si, P,  
4 Ti, V, Cr, Cu, Ga, Ge, Zr, Nb, Mo, Ru, In, Sn, Hf, and Ta, and X is selected from the  
5 group consisting of N, O, and C; and  
6 at least a single nanolamination of a material selected from the group consisting  
7 of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, SiO<sub>2</sub>, ZrO<sub>2</sub>, yttria-stabilized ZrO<sub>2</sub>, TiO<sub>2</sub>, HfO<sub>2</sub>, Ta<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, Si<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>, AlN, B<sub>4</sub>C, SiC,  
8 Si<sub>4</sub>N<sub>4</sub>, Ta, Zr, and Hf.
- 1 2. A magnetic film according to claim 1, wherein T is Fe and X is N.
- 1 3. A magnetic film according to claim 1, wherein the nanolamination has a thickness  
2 of approximately 0.4 to 1.7 Å.
- 1 4. A film structure comprising:  
2 at least a first substantially crystalline layer of the compound T-M-X wherein T is  
3 selected from the group consisting of Fe, Co, and Ni, M is selected from the group  
4 consisting of B, Al, Si, P, Ti, V, Cr, Cu, Ga, Ge, Zr, Nb, Mo, Ru, In, Sn, Hf, and Ta, and  
5 X is selected from the group consisting of N, O, and C;  
6 nanolaminations of a material selected from the group consisting of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, SiO<sub>2</sub>,  
7 ZrO<sub>2</sub>, yttria-stabilized ZrO<sub>2</sub>, TiO<sub>2</sub>, HfO<sub>2</sub>, Ta<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, Si<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>, AlN, B<sub>4</sub>C, SiC, Si<sub>4</sub>N<sub>4</sub>, Ta, Zr, and  
8 Hf;  
9 said nanolaminations being contained within said first layer; and

10 at least a second layer of a material selected from the group consisting of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  
11  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{ZrO}_2$ , yttria-stabilized  $\text{ZrO}_2$ ,  $\text{TiO}_2$ ,  $\text{HfO}_2$ ,  $\text{Ta}_2\text{O}_5$ ,  $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$ ,  $\text{AlN}$ ,  $\text{B}_4\text{C}$ ,  $\text{SiC}$ ,  $\text{Si}_4\text{N}_4$ ,  $\text{Ta}$ ,  
12  $\text{Zr}$ , and  $\text{Hf}$ ;

13 said second layer being laminated adjacent to said first layer.

1 5. A film structure according to claim 4 wherein T is Fe and X is N.

1 6. A film structure according to claim 4 wherein each of the nanolaminations has an  
2 individual thickness of approximately 0.4 – 1.7 Å.

1 7. A film structure comprising:

2 at least a first substantially crystalline layer of the compound Fe-M-O-N wherein  
3 M is selected from the group consisting of B, Al, Si, P, Ti, V, Cr, Cu, Ga, Ge, Zr, Nb,  
4 Mo, Ru, In, Sn, Hf, and Ta; said first layer contains nanolaminations of a material  
5 selected from the group consisting of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{ZrO}_2$ , yttria-stabilized  $\text{ZrO}_2$ ,  $\text{TiO}_2$ ,  
6  $\text{HfO}_2$ ,  $\text{Ta}_2\text{O}_5$ ,  $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$ ,  $\text{AlN}$ ,  $\text{B}_4\text{C}$ ,  $\text{SiC}$ ,  $\text{Si}_4\text{N}_4$ ,  $\text{Ta}$ ,  $\text{Zr}$ , and  $\text{Hf}$ ;

7 at least a second layer of a material selected from the group consisting of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  
8  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{ZrO}_2$ , yttria-stabilized  $\text{ZrO}_2$ ,  $\text{TiO}_2$ ,  $\text{HfO}_2$ ,  $\text{Ta}_2\text{O}_5$ ,  $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$ ,  $\text{AlN}$ ,  $\text{B}_4\text{C}$ ,  $\text{SiC}$ ,  $\text{Si}_4\text{N}_4$ ,  $\text{Ta}$ ,  
9  $\text{Zr}$ , and  $\text{Hf}$ ; and

10 said second layer being laminated adjacent to said first layer.

1 8. A film structure according to claim 7, wherein the nanolaminations have a  
2 thickness of approximately 0.4 to 1.7 Å.

1 9. A film structure for a GMR head comprising:

2 at least a single layer of a magnetic film for the GMR head including:



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1 13. A method according to claim 11 wherein said first deposit target is a Fe-Al target  
2 and said second deposit target is a  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  target.

1 14. A method according to claim 13 wherein power in the range of about 100-400 W  
2 is applied to the  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  target.

1 15. A method according to claim 11 wherein said substrate is alumina-TiC composite  
2 ceramic.

1 16. A method according to claim 15 wherein said composite ceramic is coated with  
2 sputtered amorphous alumina.

1 17. A method according to claim 11 wherein said laminated films are N doped.

1 18. A method according to claim 17 wherein a  $\text{N}_2/\text{Ar}$  gas mix is used as a process gas.

1 19. A method according to claim 11 wherein said laminated films are O doped and N  
2 doped.

1 20. A method according to claim 19 wherein a  $\text{N}_2\text{O}/\text{Ar}$  gas mix is used as a process  
2 gas.

1 21. A method of forming a film structure having at least a single layer magnetic film  
2 comprising a magnetic material and at least one nanolamination of a different material,  
3 the method comprising:

4 positioning a substrate under a first deposit target;

5 depositing a magnetic material from said first deposit target, wherein the magnetic

6 material is at least about 90% of Fe, Co or Ni;

7 positioning the substrate under a second deposit target;  
8 depositing a nanolamination from said second deposit target; and  
9 performing the depositions in an environment of a reactive gas.

1 22. A disk drive comprising:  
2 a magnetic disk;  
3 a GMR head comprising the magnetic film of claim 1; and  
4 an actuator arm for supporting the GMR head.

1 23. A disk drive comprising:  
2 a magnetic disk;  
3 a MR head; and  
4 an actuator arm for supporting the MR head; wherein  
5 the MR head comprises:  
6 a magnetic alloy T-M-X wherein T is selected from the group consisting of at  
7 least about 90% Fe, Co, and Ni, M is selected from the group consisting of B, Al, Si, P,  
8 Ti, V, Cr, Cu, Ga, Ge, Zr, Nb, Mo, Ru, In, Sn, Hf, and Ta, and X is selected from the  
9 group consisting of N, O, and C; and  
10 at least a single nanolamination of a material selected from the group consisting  
11 of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{ZrO}_2$ , yttria-stabilized  $\text{ZrO}_2$ ,  $\text{TiO}_2$ ,  $\text{HfO}_2$ ,  $\text{Ta}_2\text{O}_5$ ,  $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$ ,  $\text{AlN}$ ,  $\text{B}_4\text{C}$ ,  $\text{SiC}$ ,  
12  $\text{Si}_4\text{N}_4$ , Ta, Zr, and Hf.